

REMARKS

This Amendment is prepared in response to the second, non-final Office action mailed on 10 February 2005 (Paper No. 02022005). By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 11-13, 23 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, and claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 19, 21, 25 and 26 have been amended. Thus, claims 4-10, 14-22 and 25-28 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 21-23 and 26-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Yaegashi, Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-26335 in view of Fujikawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,414,738 for the reasons stated in section 3 on page is 2-3 of the Office Action.

Claims 4-10, 14-20, 24 and 25 are objected to for dependency upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and their subject matter added to allowable claims 4, 9, 14 and 19. It is submitted that independent claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 as amended and their associated dependent claims 5-8, 10-15-18 and 20 are patentable over the prior art.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 23


and allowable claim 24, which are now canceled. Accordingly, claim 21 and dependent claim 22 now recite the subject matter which are distinguishable from the prior art.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 26 and its associated dependent claims 27 and 28 now recite the subject matter which are distinguishable from the prior art.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

A fee of \$400.00 is incurred by the addition of two (2) independent claims in excess of total 4. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Amendment. Should the check become lost, be deficient in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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